constructed in ancient times between India and Sri Lanka, have been verified by the satellites of NASA;

(b) whether it is also a fact that consequent upon construction of "Sethusamudram Project", which links India with Sri Lanka, existence of 30 km. long Sri Ram Setu of ancient times would be lost and would become a matter of history; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There is no scientific evidence regarding the existence of any ancient man-made structure in the proposed Sethusamudram Ship Channel alignment.

(b) Does not arise.

Performance of serving bureaucrats

*417. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to get the performance of its serving bureaucrats evaluated by the faculty of foreign institutes like MIT, Harvard, Princeton and Yale;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the serving IAS personnel would also undergo refresher courses in such universities to finetune their skills in governance and decision making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

VPTs under Bharat Nirman Programme

†418. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are being installed in villages under Bharat Nirman Programme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.